



wherein

Ar^1 is an optionally substituted aromatic or C_{1-9} heteroaromatic group containing one to four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group selected from $-\text{CON}(\text{R}^2)-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{R}^2)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^2)-$, and $-\text{O}-$;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl group;

Ar^2 is an optionally substituted phenylene group;

R^1 is a group selected from $-\text{NHCOR}^3$, $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{R}^3$, $-\text{NHR}^3$, $-\text{NHC(O)OR}^3$, $-\text{NHCSR}^3$, $-\text{NHCON}(\text{R}^3)(\text{R}^{3a})$, $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^3)(\text{R}^{3a})$, and $-\text{NHCSN}(\text{R}^3)(\text{R}^{3a})$;

R^3 is an optionally substituted C_{3-10} cycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C_{7-10} polycycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C_{3-10} heterocycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{S})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^8-$, $-\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{CSN}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CO}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CS}-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CON}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CSN}(\text{R}^8)-$ and $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$; an optionally substituted C_{7-10} heteropolycycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{S})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^8-$, $-\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{CSN}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CO}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CS}-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CON}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CSN}(\text{R}^8)-$ and $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$; an

optionally substituted aromatic group, or an optionally substituted C₁₋₉ heteroaromatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic group, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ heteroaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)-, -C(O)NR⁸-, -OC(O)N(R⁸)-, -CSN(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CO-, -N(R⁸)C(O)O-, -N(R⁸)CS-, -S(O)₂N(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)CON(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CSN(R⁸)- and -N(R⁸)SO₂N(R⁸)-; an optionally substituted C₃₋₁₀ cycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C₇₋₁₀ polycycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C₃₋₁₀ heterocycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)-, -C(O)NR⁸-, -OC(O)N(R⁸)-, -CSN(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CO-, -N(R⁸)C(O)O-, -N(R⁸)CS-, -S(O)₂N(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)CON(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CSN(R⁸)- and -N(R⁸)SO₂N(R⁸)-; an optionally substituted C₇₋₁₀ heteropolycycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)-, -C(O)NR⁸-, -OC(O)N(R⁸)-, -CSN(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CO-, -N(R⁸)C(O)O-, -N(R⁸)CS-, -S(O)₂N(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)CON(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CSN(R⁸)- and -N(R⁸)SO₂N(R⁸)-; an optionally substituted aromatic group, or an optionally substituted C₁₋₉ heteroaromatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

R^a and R^{a'}, which may be the same or different, are each independently selected from a hydrogen or halogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkylthio or -(Alk^b)_mR^b group (in which Alk^b is a C₁₋₃ alkylene chain, m is zero or the integer 1, and R^b is -OH, -SH, -NO₂, -CN, -CO₂H, -CO₂R^c (where R^c is an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl group), -SO₃H, -SOR^c, -SO₂R^c, -SO₃R^c, -OCO₂R^c, -C(O)H, -C(O)R^c, -OC(O)R^c, -C(S)R^c, -NR^dR^e (where R^d and R^e, which may be the same or different, are each a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl group), -CON(R^d)(R^e), -OC(O)N(R^d)(R^e), -N(R^d)C(O)R^c, -CSN(R^d)(R^e), -N(R^d)C(S)R^c, -S(O)₂N(R^d)(R^e), -N(R^d)SO₂R^c, -N(R^d)CON(R^e)(R^f) (where R^f is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl group), -N(R^d)C(S)N(R^e)(R^f) or -N(R^d)SO₂N(R^e)(R^f) group);

Alk^a is an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic or C₁₋₆ heteroaliphatic chain containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)-, -C(O)NR⁸-, -OC(O)N(R⁸)-, -CSN(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CO-, -N(R⁸)C(O)O-, -N(R⁸)CS-, -S(O)₂N(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)CON(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CSN(R⁸)-, and -N(R⁸)SO₂N(R⁸)-;

r is zero or the integer 1;

R is a carboxylic acid (CO₂H), a carboxylic ester group, or carboxylic amide group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.